

TOPPS
COMICS

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OF THE FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA FILM

BRAM STOKER'S

**2
OF 4**

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MATURE READERS

Dracula™

FREE **POSTER** INSIDE

ROY THOMAS

MIKE MIGNOLA

JOHN NYBERG

MIGNOLA



BRAM STOKER'S Dracula

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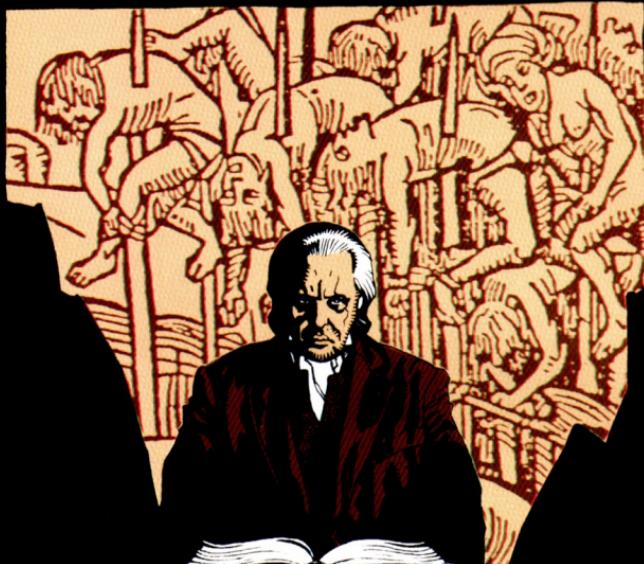
BASED ON THE SCREENPLAY BY JAMES V. HART
ROY THOMAS MIKE MIGNOLA JOHN NYBERG JOHN COSTANZA MARK CHIARELLO
SCRIPT PENCILS INKS LETTERS COLORS
JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR

“I, Abraham Van Helsing, Doctor of Sciences, University of Amsterdam, here continue the untold tale of Dracula, he who was a Warrior Prince in his lifetime, and who lived on beyond the grave, feeding for centuries on the blood of his innocent victims...and of his desire to gain, once more, the love that was torn from him with the death of his beloved Elisabeta.

“The story is told in the documented journals and diaries, letters and memos, of Mr. Jonathan Harker, recently of London...of Dr. Jack Seward, my former student and now my colleague...of our precious Miss Lucy Westenra...and the personal diary of Wilhelmina Murray.

“Little did Jonathan Harker suspect, when he left the side of his fiancée...our dear Mina...that the foreign nobleman to whose castle he journeyed on business was no human being at all, but the vampire lord of a ravaged land.

“While Dracula himself made ready to depart for England, there to expand his Empire of Blood, Harker was forced to send letters to Mina and his employer, telling them that he was remaining as the Count's guest for a time...but in truth, he had become the midnight plaything of three female vampires who served his undead host....”



TOPPS COMICS

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JONATHAN HARKER'S JOURNAL 15 JUNE

These may be the last words I write in this journal. The letters I wrote to loved ones have sealed my doom. Dracula has condemned me to this castle with those women.

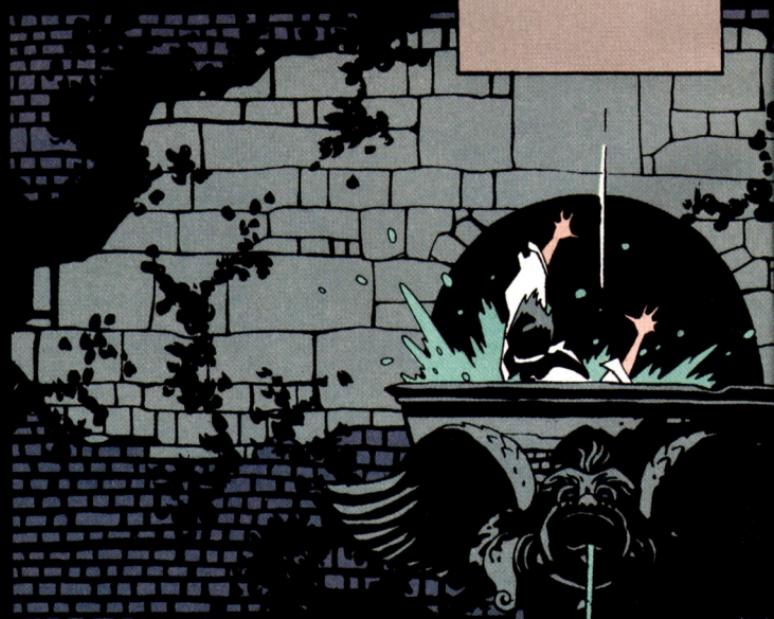
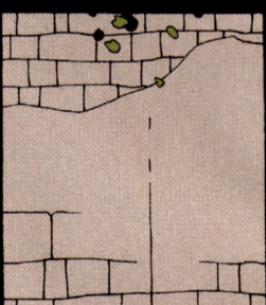
No -- Mina is a woman. These are devils of the pit!

I have not yet seen
the Count in daylight.
Can it be that he
sleeps when others
wake?

If I could but
find him... I will
kill him, and find
a way out of this
dreadful place.

Goodbye, Mina,
if I fail.

Goodbye, all! --





The count's Gypsies--
fearless warriors
who are loyal to
the death to
the nobleman
they serve.

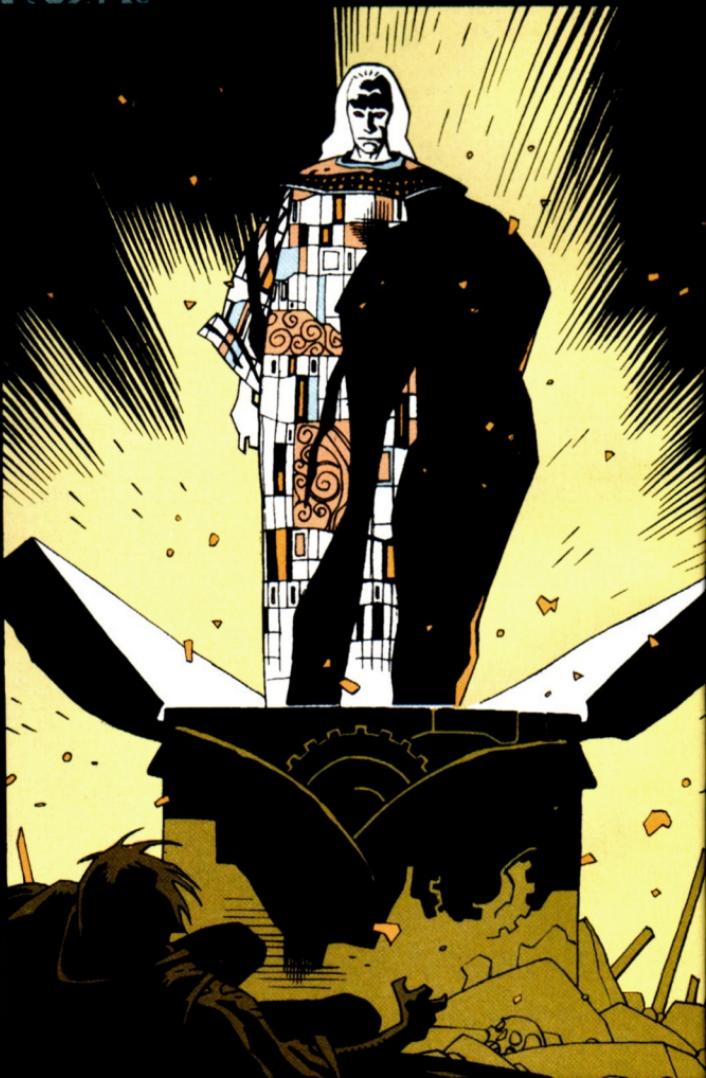
The count had me give
instructions for fifty
boxes of "experimental
earth" to be loaded aboard
the ship *Demeter*-- to be
delivered to his newly
acquired Carfax Abbey
in London.

Day and night the Gypsies
toil, filling boxes with
decrepit earth from the
bowels of the castle.

I fear
that this evil cargo is
part of a scheme--

-- and that I am
the Devil's
accomplice.

DRACULA...







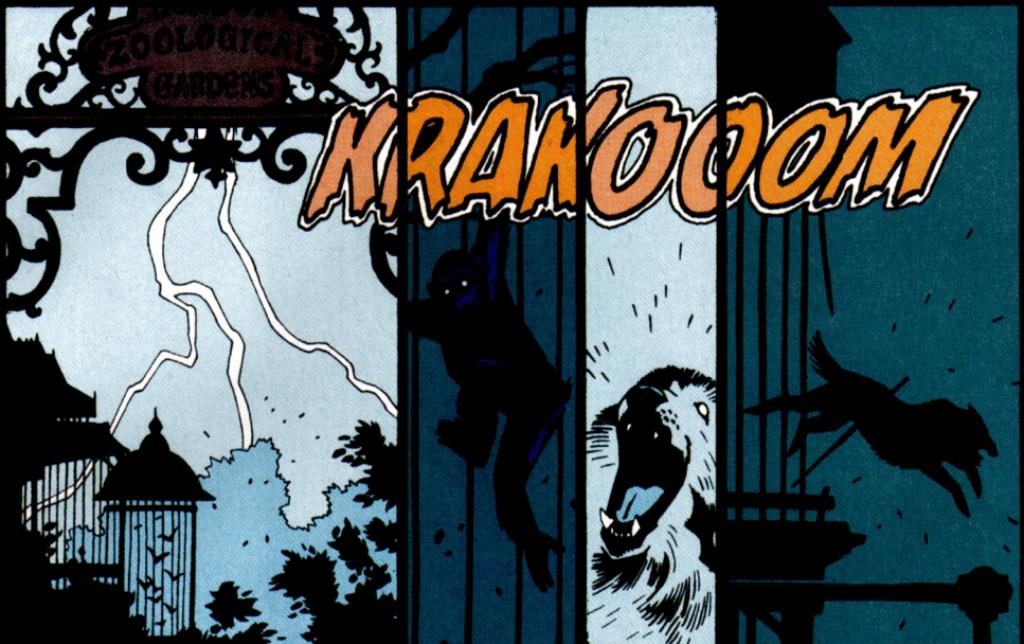
Captain's Log --
The Demeter --
21 June 1897.
we picked up
fifty boxes of
experimental earth
bound for London,
England. Set sail
at moon into a
storm that seemed
to come out of
nowhere, carrying
us out to sea.

3 July, second
Mate has gone
missing. Nearing
Gibraltar. Storm
continues.

Crew uneasy.
Believes someone
or something
is aboard the
ship with us.



CONSIGNMENT:
50 BOXES
EXPERIMENTAL EARTH
FROM: SAMUEL F. BILLINGTON
& SON, SOLICITORS
TO: MESSRS. CARTER PATTERSON
& SON, LONDON, ENGLAND
FOR DELIVERY TO:
CARFAX CHAPEL, PURFLEET



"THE CASE OF RENFIELD GROWS EVER MORE INTERESTING..."

...YET THERE IS METHOD IN HIS
MADNESS WITH HIS FLIES
AND SPIDERS.

HAD I THE SECRET OF EVEN ONE
SUCH BRILLIANT MIND--THE KEY
TO THE FANCY OF ONE LUNATIC--

SINCE MY REBUFF BY LUCY
WESTENRA, NOTHING
SEEMS OF SUFFICIENT
IMPORTANCE.

WORK IS MY CURE.

IF ONLY I HAD A
STRONG CAUSE...

...LIKE MY POOR... MAD...
FRIEND... RENFIELD...

I AM HERE TO DO
YOUR BIDDING, MASTER!

I HAVE WORSHIPPED YOU
LONG AND FROM FAR OFF.

NOW THAT YOU ARE NEAR,
I AM YOUR SLAVE!

I AWAIT
YOUR
COMMANDS!

THRAKOON

THRAKOOOOM!

DEMETER

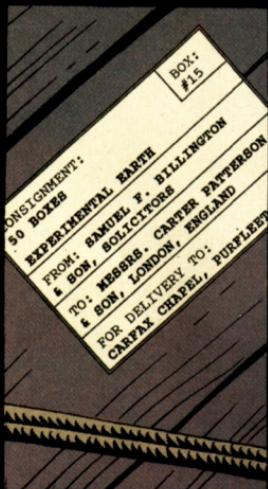


RRRRRRRRRRGGGG









The power of these things--
these insatiable creatures--
is greatest at night.

But make
no mistake
about it--

--they can move
about in the
daylight.

Although
they
weaken--



--as do most evil things--

DON'T
LEAVE
USSSS!

YOU
WANT
USSSS!

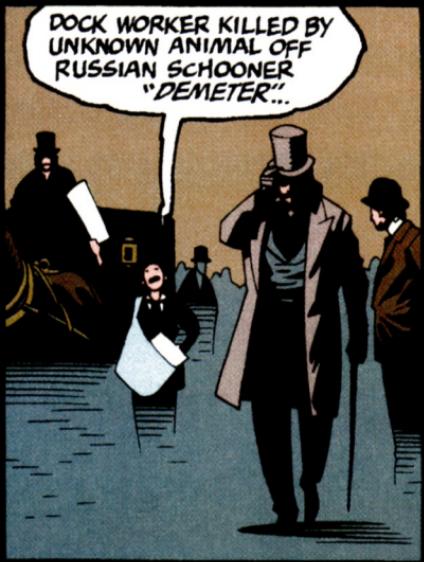
--they are still a dangerous foe...

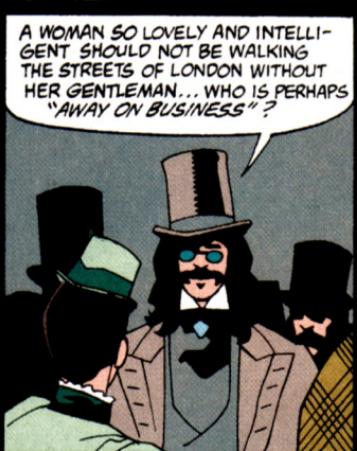


...though what they
can do to me is as
nothing, compared
to the carnage
Dracula may
wreak if he
reaches London.

READ IT HERE!
SUDDENEST AND
GREATEST STORM
ON RECORD STRIKES
ENGLAND...











HELP ME--JACK--PLEASE--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO ME. I'M
CHANGING--I CAN FEEL IT.

I HEAR EVERYTHING--
SERVANTS WHISPERING AT
THE OTHER END OF THE
HOUSE--MICE IN THE ATTIC
STOMPING LIKE ELEPHANTS--

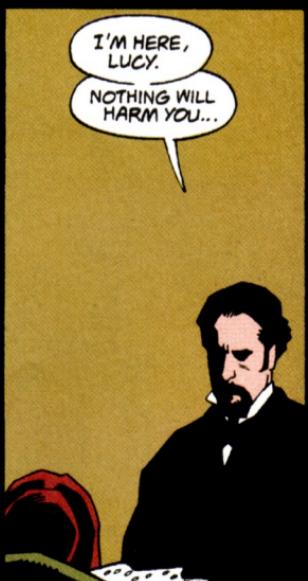
HORRIBLE
NIGHTMARES--
EYES--

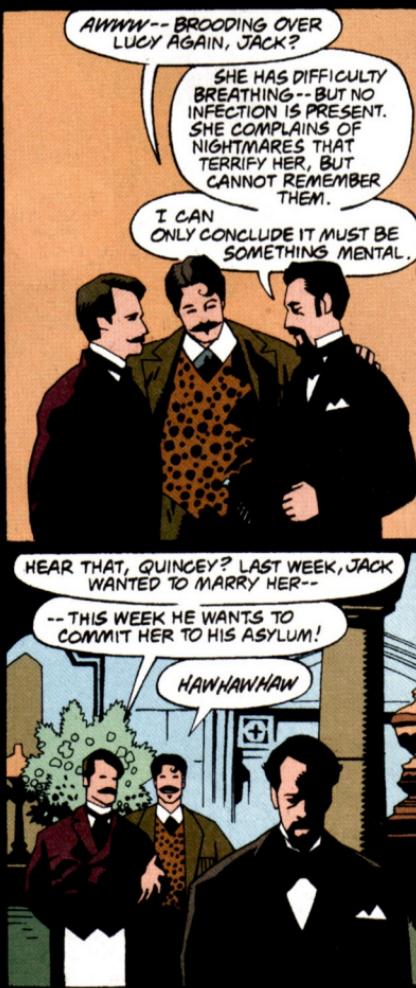
I SEE THINGS
IN THE DARK, AS
PLAIN AS DAY--

--AND I'M
STARVING--
BUT I
CANNOT
BEAR THE
SIGHT OF
FOOD.

HELP
ME--!

I'M HERE,
LUCY.
NOTHING WILL
HARM YOU...





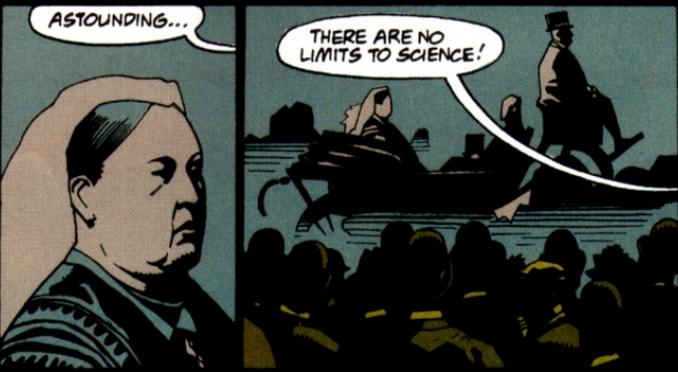


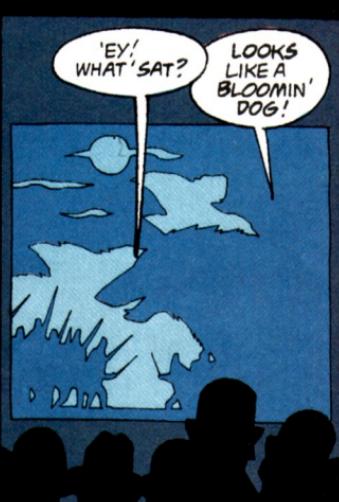
HE SOUNDS
LIKE A GODDAM
WITCH DOCTOR
TO ME.

DO IT, SEWARD! BRING
HIM HERE!

SPARE NO
EXPENSE!

GGRRRRRRRRP











WITNESS THE
STRUGGLE.



THE GREAT MYSTERY
OF LIFE AND DEATH
CONTINUES.



BUT, DR. VAN
HELSING -- YOU
HAVE YET TO
EXPLAIN YOUR
THEORY.

AH, IT IS THE FAULT
OF SCIENCE THAT WANTS
TO EXPLAIN IT ALL.

BUT WHEN SCIENCE
CANNOT, SCIENCE SIMPLY
SAYS THERE IS NOTHING
TO EXPLAIN.

THE KEY TO ALL LIFE
AND DEATH LIES HERE...
PASSION... BLOOD.



BLOOD
IS LIFE...
AND GIVES
LIFE.

THE TROPICAL PAMPAS
VAMPIRE BAT MUST
CONSUME TEN TIMES
ITS WEIGHT IN FRESH
BLOOD EACH DAY, OR
ITS OWN BLOOD
CELLS WILL DIE.

CUTE
LITTLE
VERMIN.

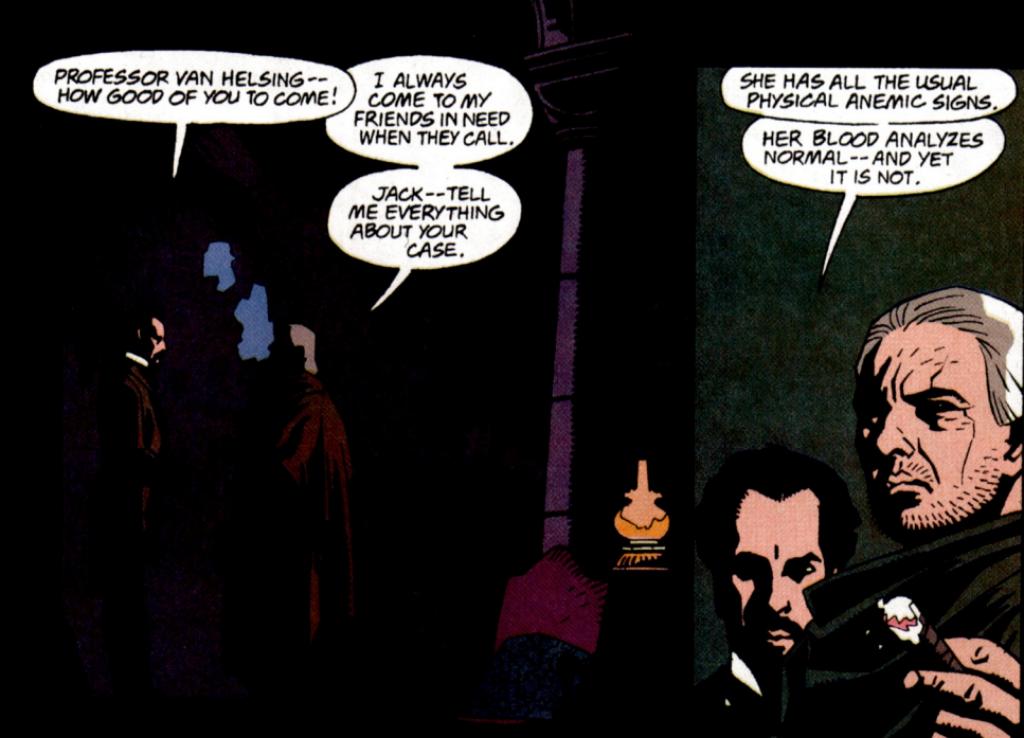
YET -- IS FRESH BLOOD ENOUGH
TO PROLONG LIFE? THE KEY
TO IMMORTALITY --

DR. VAN
HELSING --

-- A
TELEGRAM
FOR YOU.







Nooooooo



To be Continued...

INSIDE
COPPOLA'S

DRACULA

PART TWO

The Players

Director Francis Ford Coppola insisted on a young cast for **BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA**. The notable exception was to be Anthony Hopkins as Prof. Van Helsing, a decidedly offbeat "father figure" who guides the novice vampire hunters (and victims) through their paces.

"Mina is barely twenty years old in Stoker's novel, and Lucy is almost twenty," explains Hart. "Dracula himself was a young prince when he renounced Christ and became a vampire. Harker is in his early twenties and Lucy's suitors are all in the same age bracket. For once, you're not seeing thirty year-old actors and thirty year-old actresses in these roles."

Adds Coppola: "In terms of personalities and functions, all of the characters in our movie are like the characters in the book, including many characters that are usually cut out (of other film adaptations)."



Top: Prof. Van Helsing and his intrepid band of vampire slayers prepare for an epic confrontation. Right: Gary Oldman's Dracula is a tormented, enigmatic creature of the night.

BY GARY GERANI



Coppola, who, as a camp counselor some years back used to read "Dracula" to his kids, embraced his young players and brought them all to his home in Napa County, California. There they loosened up socially, played theater games, read the novel (a formidable task) and, of course, rehearsed endlessly. When filming began, the ensemble was ready.

GARY OLDMAN as DRACULA. From warrior prince to Byronic lover to various unearthly incarnations, Oldman embodies sensual evil and was the director's first choice for the coveted lead role. Although, in pre-production, screenwriter Hart wasn't sold on the young British actor, his opinion soon changed: "I think Gary's having the most fun he's ever had in his entire life. As dark as the character is, he's brought a compassion and tenderness to it that people haven't seen in Dracula before."

"I tried to play him like Raphael, a fallen angel," observes Oldman. "Of course, it's a delicious cocktail because he's very much like the Devil. Vampires are fascinating people. And so sexy!"

Previously, Gary Oldman impressed moviegoers with important roles in *JFK*, *STATE OF GRACE*, *SID & NANCY* (as Sid Vicious), *PRICK UP YOUR EARS*, *CRIMINAL LAW* and *TRACK 29*. He's also performed frequently on stage, including with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

WINONA RYDER as MINA/ELIZABETH. Veteran of several successful films, among them Tim Burton's *BEETLEJUICE* and *EDWARD SCISSORHANDS*, this youthful beauty was immediately drawn to the dual role of Mina/Elizabeth, Dracula's eternal love.

Top: A romantic encounter between Dracula (Gary Oldman) and Mina (Winona Ryder) is captured on film. Right: Dracula's three vampire brides await their next victim. Far right: Sadie Frost as Lucy, possessed and corrupted by the evil of Dracula.



Dracula

"Winona was looking to play an adult part, after years of being a teen star," comments Jim Hart. "The character of Mina goes through a transformation that she was going through in her own life, she was growing up."

Actually, it was Ms. Ryder's special interest that got the **BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA** started in the first place.

"Not knowing much about Dracula, I read the screenplay and really enjoyed it," Ryder recalls. "Later, I had a meeting with Francis Ford Coppola and I brought the script along to see if he'd be interested. It turns out he's a tremendous fan of Dracula..."

The rest, as they say, is Hollywood history.

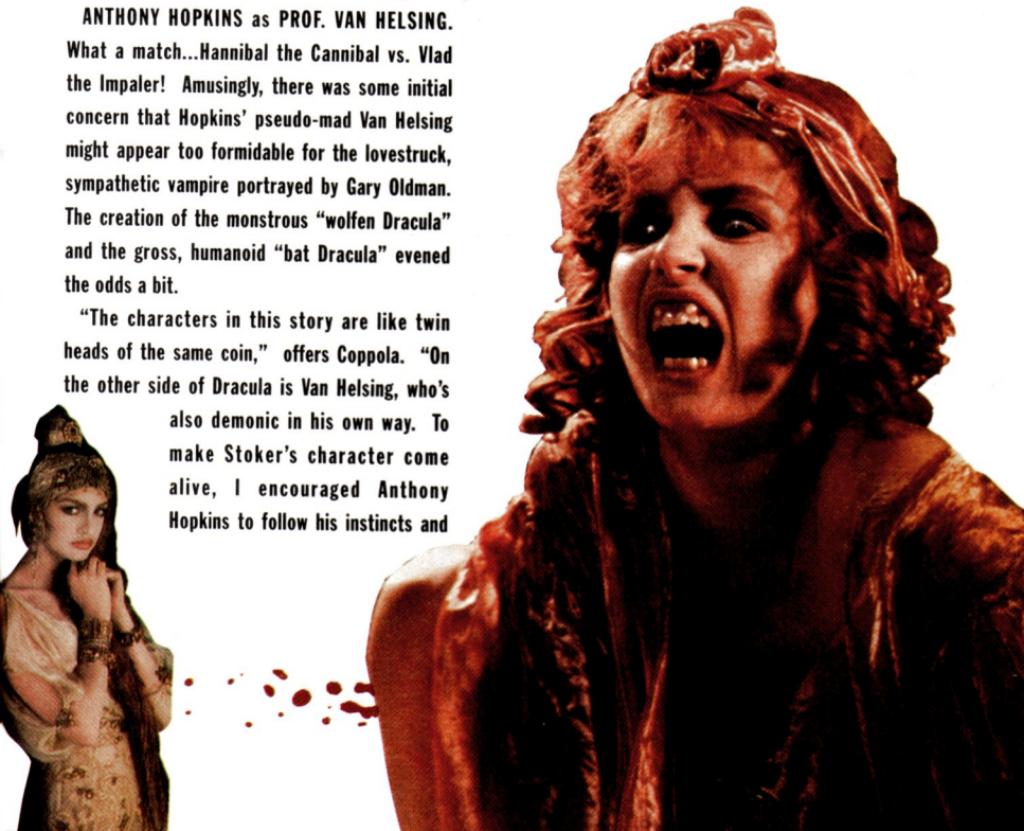
ANTHONY HOPKINS as **PROF. VAN HELSING**. What a match...Hannibal the Cannibal vs. Vlad the Impaler! Amusingly, there was some initial concern that Hopkins' pseudo-mad Van Helsing might appear too formidable for the lovestruck, sympathetic vampire portrayed by Gary Oldman. The creation of the monstrous "wolfen Dracula" and the gross, humanoid "bat Dracula" evened the odds a bit.

"The characters in this story are like twin heads of the same coin," offers Coppola. "On the other side of Dracula is Van Helsing, who's also demonic in his own way. To make Stoker's character come alive, I encouraged Anthony Hopkins to follow his instincts and

do these weird, mad things..."

Various Van Helsings have graced the screen over the years, ranging from dottering-but-determined Edward Van Sloan (in the Lugosi version) to dashing and heroic Peter Cushing, the very essence of scientific rationality. Even legendary thespian Laurence Olivier took a crack at the good doctor in John Badham's 1979 **DRACULA**, which starred Frank Langella.

KEANU REEVES as **JONATHAN HARKER**. He's Mina's fiance, an ambitious 24-year-old who must travel to Eastern Europe to finalize London real estate purchases made by a certain Transylvanian count. Significantly, Harker is the





Light that battles Dracula's Dark for the love of the young Mina...and loses. Reeves's major film credits include the *BILL & TED* romps, *POINT BREAK*, *DANGEROUS LIAISONS*, *I LOVE YOU TO DEATH*, *RIVER'S EDGE* and *PARENTHOOD*.

SADIE FROST as **LUCY**. A newcomer to films, this spirited actress won the role of Mina's best friend and consequently a victim of Dracula. As in the novel, Lucy is coquettish and beautiful, the ultimate flirt. "Winona and I became pals at Napa, which everyone calls 'Camp Coppola,' and I think this comes through in the movie," says Ms. Frost. "I happen to be a gymnast, and when Francis discovered that, he used it in my vampire scenes. My movements became very insect-like." And what about the much-publicized sensual aspects of the movie? "Everything is very stylized, in the tradition of

(filmmakers) Cocteau (*BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*) and Murnau (*NOSFERATU*). I trusted Francis on this. I knew I was in the hands of an artist..."

RICHARD E. GRANT as **DR. JACK SEWARD**, **CARY ELWES** as **ARTHUR HOLMWOOD** and **BILL CAMPBELL** as **QUINCEY MORRIS**. Lucy's ardent admirers, they are the Tom, Dick, and Harry of the Victorian set. "I'm the one she chooses," states Elwes with a twinkle in his eye, although it's Dracula who really has Lucy spinning. Grant plays the director of a London asylum and Bill Campbell, late of *THE ROCKETEER*, is once again an All-American icon, this time a visitor from the states who becomes embroiled in Van Helsing's ghoulies vampire hunt. Since Coppola and Hart retained Stoker's high-energy "western" chase sequence, having a bona fide cowboy like Quincey aboard added to the scene's credibility.

TOM WAITS as **RENFIELD**. Dracula's deranged slave and procurer, an insect-eating patient in Dr. Seward's asylum. Although Waits acting credits are impressive—he worked previously with Coppola in *THE COTTON CLUB*, *RUMBLEFISH* and *THE OUTSIDERS*—He is of course best known as a musician. His movie music credits include *NIGHT ON EARTH*, *DOWN BY LAW* and an Oscar nomination for the song score of *ONE FROM THE HEART*.

Waits follows in the frenzied footsteps of numerous bug-devouring actors, the most famous being Dwight Frye in the original 1931 Bela Lugosi version. Often, the Renfield and Jonathan Harker characters are combined, as in Hammer's 1958 *HORROR OF DRACULA*.

N E X T
I S S U E

The death of Lucy, and her horrifying rebirth as a vampire. Has Mina fallen under Dracula's spell, or is it eternal love that drives her into the vampire prince's arms? Also, Part Three of of

INSIDE COPPOLA'S DRACULA: Of Monsters and Magic.



MIGNOL

"He commands the meaner things—the bat, rodent, wolf.
"He can see in the dark—and hear beyond mortal bounds.

"Dracula can do all these things, and yet he is not free."

-Van Helsing



MIKONOLA